
XVI. *Description of Sowerbæa juncea, a Plant of New South Wales.*

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THE essential character of the genus of *Sowerbæa* is already published in the fourth volume of the Linnean Society's Transactions, p. 218, as follows :

Corolla infera, hexapetala. *Filamenta* tria, biantherifera, sterilibus tribus interstinctis.

It belongs to the Order of *Asphodeli* of M. de Jussieu, and should be arranged in the same section with *Allium*. One part of the character of that section, *radix bulbosa*, requires however to be omitted, as being neither necessary to discriminate *Allium*, nor applicable to the genus before us.

Sowerbæa is strikingly distinguished from every plant of the same natural order by having two antheræ upon each filament, each of which consists of two cells, and bursts by two pores at the top. Between the filaments which bear antheræ, three short blunt barren ones are inserted. The antheræ separately considered agree in structure and manner of bursting with M. de Lamarck's genus of *Dianella*, *Juss. Gen.* 41 ; but in that each stands on its own filament, and the fruit moreover is a berry.

In the Linnean System *Sowerbæa* must be placed between *Aphyllanthes* and *Allium* in *Hexandria Monogynia*; for every analogy, as well

well as the structure of its parts, proves it to be truly hexandrous, though at first sight it might seem triandrous.

We are as yet acquainted with but one species of this genus, discovered by Mr. White near Port Jackson in New South Wales, and now not unfrequent in the nurseries about London. It requires the shelter of a greenhouse, and thrives best in bog earth with a considerable degree of moisture. It may be named

SOWERBÆA JUNCEA:

Root of many long simple fibres.

Herb smooth.

Leaves radical, sheathing, upright, linear, sharp-pointed; channelled above; convex beneath.

Stipula within the leaf, simple, white, membranous, obtuse, concave.

Stalk solitary, taller than the leaves, erect, simple, naked, round, smooth, solid.

Umbel terminal, many-flowered, spreading.

Braçtæe several, ovate, coloured, shorter than the umbel.

Flower-stalks simple, thread-like, single-flowered, naked.

Calyx none.

Petals six, equal, ovate, pale purple, spreading, permanent.

Filaments smooth, greenish.

Antheræ yellow.

Germen superior, roundish, smooth, with three principal furrows and three smaller intermediate ones.

Style erect, rather longer than the stamina.

Stigma simple.

Capsule

